

THE ARMSTRONG FUNERAL HOME

W. J. OLIVER

Commercial, Press and Portrait
PHOTOGRAPHER

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CALGARY BREWING &
MALTING CO., Limited

Even in those early days The Eye Opener was taking a very active part in the public life of Calgary. When Hugh River first pronounced that the Calgary fair should have at least two days' racing and announced the suspension laws. In April, 1900, directors of the Calgary Exhibition decided to devote two afternoon, instead of one as originally announced, to horse racing. After dispatching the lack of interest in the Calgary fair, he commented on conditions prevailing at Edmonton.

Up north all the talk is about the Edmonton fair and its \$100,000 price list, 14,000 of which goes to the fair itself. All the north winter in enthusiasm about the fair. It is the best of the world and know what the public want. They want to see the fair.

Chas. H. Forrester, "Cock" Edwards' Commentator.

On February, 1916, I called upon the officer in charge of a recruiting station on Eighth Avenue, Calgary, and proposed that, if he would furnish me with suitable ideas I would draw recruiting cartoons, poster time, free of charge. The gallant officer replied that he could not think of anything suitable, but sent me to Mr. J. E. Edwards. This led to "The Eye Opener" the work of making his cartoons from that time till his death. One could not help feeling that it was a privilege to know him and work for him. His mind was stored with facts relating to the political history of Canada, past and present. He seemed to observe every little change in the political weather and his comments and forecasts showed extraordinary accuracy and wisdom. I was particularly glad to work for him for he paid a fair price and SPOT CASH. He was very helpful to many besides myself in using his influence to obtain for them, what, as honest, your man desires most, viz., a steady job at a living wage.

His heart was big and warm. Once, when I was unpaid and long about, he came two miles and brought me the money I was owed. I was taken where I could get proper nursing. It turned out he was not necessarily alarmed, but if I had needed a friend, he was one. (THE END)

In those days I was often depressed and gloomy, and felt I could not do good work but he seemed on such days to buoy me up. I found myself in a better mood and I found myself as merry as he, and presently the hills were climbed and the job was done. For work that pleased him he never given praise. And artists and writers, greatly pleased, day then, my feeling for him deepened into a strong affection. I knew that though he often showed to the world the mask of frivolity, yet behind that mask was reverence for all that was pure and high and beautiful. Hypocrisy was something he could not endure.

He was a "terrier to evil-doers" and he saved the public from having its pocket picked far oftener than we shall ever realize.

I had the privilege in 1905 of watching the notorious Mr. Monroe crash Bob's warning to the Calgary public regarding "Monroe & Monroe."

In Memory

R. C. ("Bob") EDWARDS

Don of Free-lance
Journalists and a
Friendly Critic
of the Silent Drama.

□

We join his family and friends in mourning the loss of a true and valued citizen.

Capitol Entertainment

In memory of

"BOB"

who was a "movie fan" who appreciated the efforts of all who endeavored to give the best in film entertainment.

The "movies" have lost a good friend.

ALAN PALACE



Eye Opener Editor: "Now where in blue blazes shall we locate the little old paper this time!"
(This cartoon appeared in the first Post-Editor edition dated August 14, 1909.)

He read he went with passion and, though he could hardly find words to vent his disappointed rage upon Bob and his Eye Opener, I'll say he did his best.

The United States courts afterwards gave Mr. Monroe three years for lodging in a penitentiary for swindling. His work had been good, Calgary would have quickly announced the possible breaking apart of Seddon and Gomerah after the fire.

Commenting on the immigration policy of the government in 1905 he wrote:

The best immigration agency we contacted settlers who write to their friends about the conditions under which they live.

This was a theme frequently referred to by The Eye Opener in later years and anything which would cause immigration to Alberta was always sure of support in the paper.

Throughout his career, Bob was eager to give honest support to those who were striving to make the world a better place to live in. He had a virile pen for those who trod the earth with discontent and honest dominion. Nothing pleased him more than to see an economic measure into the gash of the community.

On such occasions he always commented favorably. One early instance in connection with a Macdonald local production is quoted:

Alas, heavily laden with jokes and puns, the play was a disappointment, and it will surely repay liberal patronage when a company may High River the compliment of coming up and giving the play.

"General regret was expressed if anyone knew that R. C. Edwards, M.L.A. for Calgary and editor of the Eye Opener had died on Tuesday evening after an illness of several weeks.

Mr. Edwards had been in failing health since April when he suffered from an attack of influenza, while attending the provincial legislature. Mr. Edwards, in the early days, was a resident of High River where he edited the Eye Opener, a journal that enjoyed a very large circulation throughout the Dominion. He was one of the outstanding figures in free lance journalism in Canada and will be remembered by his fellow journalists throughout the world.

The Daily Province, Vancouver, after referring at length to the deceased editor's career, published the following:

"Mr. Edwards' first immersion in the publishing field in his own behalf was at Vancouver, Alberta. Shortly afterwards he moved to High River, north of Calgary, the result of operations of the financial contrivances of the time. Here the Eye Opener was born and first began to attract attention because of the funny stories it told about the residents of the town."

"One of the best of these was the story about the younger son of a poor man who had been sent to Canada for a good and given liberal money to live in. He was a rich man, and the various times that followed it, were, of course, all presented in the bar of the hotel at High River, the home of the poor, and as an act of land or a lot, of stock. One day he received a telegram from Calgary saying his father would arrive on the next train to support the property."

Hastening in a friend who owned a few hundred head of stock and a ranch house, the provincial school, his assistance in locating the property was met by the man driving a donkey, and when the man driving a donkey was met by the man driving a donkey, the man driving a donkey was met by the man driving a donkey.

The friend's ranch house was quickly reached and quizzed on the town, while a few hundred head of stock were being loaded on the train by the simple expedient of loading them one after another, and when there was a few miles while the conversation took place, the man driving a donkey was met by the man driving a donkey.

night or ten miles to see the "next roundup." The father was so impressed that he gave the son \$1000 to invest in more cattle.

"An illustration Bob Edwards' rhyme and his aversion to meeting strangers, the following story is related:

"It was the custom of a number of Calgary rhymers to meet every Saturday night at a game of pool in a downtown office building, among the players being the late J. N. N. K.C. One Saturday night Edwards met a man and the crowd brought into the game a pair of eastern visitors who happened to be in town. Proceeding along the corridor to the refreshment Edwards passed as he heard strange rhymes floating over the transom. He lunched in his pocket, producing a tin of butter, which he wrote the words of contribution, tossed it over the transom, and fled."

In 1904 The Eye Opener was published in Calgary in one issue that year. Bob highly complimented the city and in another column had a severe remark or two regarding the forthcoming race at the fair, and he wrote:

The attainment of Calgary to the rank of a metropolis is evidenced by the fact that of the visiting bodies of trade delegates were not returned up to a piece of paper on which he wrote the words of contribution, tossed it over the transom, and fled."

The racing will not be as tip-top as the racing at Lexington, but it will be as good as the West has seen in this time of day. If it is most earnestly to be hoped that there will be an excellent racing, night before jobs and no laying up of heads and horses.

The people of Calgary are giving their time and money to redeem former misdeeds in this line. If they come any more of the old-time funny business at this meeting they need expect to receive \$10,000 prize contributions. It is up to them to put Calgary in her rightful place as the true racing center of the West.

The Calgary Daily Herald:

"The late Mr. R. C. Edwards created for himself a special niche in the press—his own life of Calgary. He has a unique capacity for friendship just as he had unique gifts as a humorist. He could be the kind and appreciative commentator or the caustic critic. His standing here where he was best known, behind the reputation he justly created for himself. As a writer his vein of humor will ensure him a place in the literature of Canada."

The Grand Theatre is pleased to add its tribute to the Memory of BOB EDWARDS, whose never-failing courtesies and kindly constructive criticism were always appreciated.

R. J. LYDIATT,
Manager

G Royal-Collins
R Players
A Present the World-
Famous Comedy Drama
N Daddy
D Long
Legs
with
EDYTHE ELLIOTT
in the Leading Role.
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The Right Beverage

To build up strength,
health and happiness

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and Malting Co., Ltd.

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Sports Outfitters Exclusively

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New Address: 117 8th Ave. W., Calgary

CATALOGUES FREE ON REQUEST

ATHLETIC GOODS

BASKET BALL SUPPLIES

Sports Outfitters Exclusively

GUNS AND RIFLES

On June 3, 1911, The Calgary Eye Opener contained the following paragraph:

The circulation of The Calgary Eye Opener is now 75,000. Hundreds of our publishers, presenters, etc., will verify the absolute accuracy of this statement. This is the largest circulation of any publication west of Toronto, beating the Winnipeg Daily.

Vol. X, No. 1, dated April, 1912, contained:

The Calgary Eye Opener has now eight pages, which is six more than

C. C. SNOWDON

The World's Finest
Auto Oil

EMPRESS
SLIPVITY
NUMIDIAN

Try our energy high-
test Winter Gasoline

Glass-Alco
Anti-Freeze for Radiators

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Edmonton and Vancouver

"BOB" always appreciated
courtesy and service. He
will long be remembered for
the service that he rendered.

C. H. HARRY, Ph. C.

Prescription Druggist
Kodaks and Supplies
218 8th Ave. E.

IN MEMORY

OF
A GOOD FRIEND AND
BOOSTER

A lover of the genuine and
good to preference to the shoddy
and shabby.

D. E. BLACK,
Managing Director.

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Birks GOLDMINTH
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HENRY BIRKS & SONS, LIMITED
CALGARY, ALBERTA

MRS. R. C. EDWARDS TAKES THIS
OPPORTUNITY OF THANKING HER
FRIENDS FOR THEIR KIND EX-
PRESSIONS OF CONDOLENCE, AND
FLORAL REMEMBRANCES, DURING
HER RECENT BEREAVEMENT.

The Queen had during the coronation. This is going some.

Four pages was the size of all Mr. Edwards' papers with the exception of a few times which appeared after the above announcement. He preferred to issue the paper small, full of good things, intermittently, rather than at regular intervals with reading matter rushed into type just to fill up space.

The Edmonton Journal.

The Edmonton Journal says that "Bob Edwards was the Canadian Journalist. What is the basis of the comparison? Junius wrote his last letters just 150 years ago and no one has been able to determine his identity. Some forty different persons have been suggested at different times and scores of volumes have been published which sought to solve the mystery. But no one was ever in any doubt as to who wrote the article in The Age Opener. Its editor's whole life was an open book. Junius and Bob Edwards should be linked together, not because of their similarity, but because of their dissimilarity. The one was as open an example of the impersonal as the other was of the personal journalist."

The Ottawa Citizen.

The Ottawa Citizen says: "The passing of Bob Edwards, editor of The Calgary Eye Opener, removes one of the most picturesque figures in Canadian journalism. His career was often of a character that was of questionable taste, but he was fond of exposing shame, and during his decline showed that he stood for honest convictions. If he did not add permanently to the annals of Canadian literature, he at least added to the glory of the nation, and will be remembered affectionately by a large number of people scattered throughout the Dominion."

Since 1912 his campaigns were numerous and varied. He fought for years against the subsidies collected by Mackenzie and Mann from the government, and equally referred to the inevitable result of their management of the C.N.R. He had hoped to live

to see the day when the Canadian National Road would be placed on the map. He has but often remarked that it might take a century to undo the mischief already done.

But the great campaign of his life was to have the ban and drinking saloons abolished. When the question of prohibition seemed largely in the hands of the "wet" element, a foregone conclusion that Bob would support the "wet" element, he surprised the fans by doing just what they did not expect. He came forth strongly in favor of wiping out the ban forever.

Away back in the old days when Calgary and Highgate were still in the Northwest Territories and Alberta had not come into being, Bob Edwards was advocating that whiskey and spirits should be kept out of the country. This is what he said in The Eye Opener on June 18th, 1910.

If we were asked to give an opinion on the most effective way to do away with drunkenness, those who know all about such things, however, are never asked for their opinion on the subject; we should say that the simplest way would be to prohibit the sale of whiskey and spirits altogether, and permit beer and light wines.

Attempt of total prohibition always ends in failure. Drunkenness only prevails where adult spirits of the whiskey variety abound. Cut off the spirits and the battle is won.

That was written eighteen years ago and from time to time he placed this suggestion prominently before his readers. In the last issue of The Calgary Eye Opener he wrote:

The staunchest allies the prohibitionists have today are the bootleggers. The two combined have already succeeded in turning the issue into a question of whiskey-drinkers. If there should ever come a legislative fight for the legalizing of old-fashioned beer, the bootleggers and bootleggers. And from what we already heard of the Social Service Council they won't be above accepting donations from the source.

In the issue of July 17th, 1915, pointing four days before the prohibition was voted on, he printed the following in black face, in the center column of the paper:

Consider well. View the Act and its consequences from every angle. Many homes will be put out of business and placed in grave financial difficulties. They are to get no compensation. Engaged in an occupation which is legalized and specially licensed by the government and the city they suddenly find the glass opening up at their feet and a ravine pit of utter ruin being prepared for them to fall into, and the walls at the mercy of rapacious landlords, inexorable landlords, and absolutely heartless bankers. Does this not excite your?

It does, but only to a limited extent, for a panorama passes before our eyes of women and little children in humble homes, the proper food and clothing, lacking warmth in winter and better comfort in the joy of living, going to sleep in misery, and waking in another day with the dull pain of hypochondria. In the present victims of the damnable trade of booze, we see a multitude of downcast men, down-and-outers, purchasing for dimes on the street to procure more of that very booze which has taken every job they ever had; there appear in the picture men whom we once knew in their more prosperous days, who, before our very eyes day by day and year by year, have been gradually falling behind in the race until we almost forget that they ever started at all; our mind's eye lights on poor devils of both sexes being yanked each night in the police station and chucked into cells, to meet further humiliation the following morning in the dock; we see in this mental panorama much wretchedness, but the far more saddening is the gentle vision of grave containing the remains of men, good men, who were joyful companions in their day, laid to rest by hosts of friends, but whose

The Calgary Eye Opener will continue publication. It will be issued on Saturday, Dec. 8, with an announcement as to the publication on behalf of the estate of late R. C. Edwards. M. C. L.

News agents whose orders did not arrive on time will find the instructions asked for by letter mail.

careers were brought to an abrupt and shameful conclusion by bad whiskey and by nothing else. In a word, there is death in the Cup, and if this Act is likely to have the effect of dashing the Cup from the drunkard's hand, for God's sake let us vote for it.

The same issue contained many other remarks on the subject, among them being the following:

Laying aside these possible fatal results, why should a man, especially a young man, deliberately and with his own wife and child, undertake in the path of his own success? To many it may be that the Drys should have, at the beginning of their efforts on behalf of temperance, invited the co-operation of the Dominion government and thought about a condition where whiskey and kindred drinks were put into the drug class and labelled Poison, with licenses granted for the sale of beer and light wines only.

Indeed, we fail to see why incoherent beverages such as lager beer and light wines should require any special license at all. Druggists do not sell a liquor license, so far as we know, and yet they sell Percocin with its 12 per cent alcohol in it and sundry.

Should the Act pass, it will assuredly have to be amended in a way later on. It is full of drink little sources of temptation. For instance, we have a suite of rooms in a downtown hotel where we have been a resident for ten years. This, as it turns out, is a "dressing" under the Act. It will therefore be illegal and criminal for us to have a guest of boots shipped to our address from

election was over and they disappeared from the columns.

One year ago he purchased a copy long ago close to his newspaper office, he expressed great interest in it and secured his friends that night hoping he would have a loving guest all ready for playing on. He became literally a family man in every respect, his whole interest centered on his "dear little home in the West."

Goodbye, Bob, sportman, trusty friend. Men of your mould are few. Our loss is a loss that grey lines can mend.

"The hard to say adieu. A builder of this glorious west, brave, big-hearted, dauntless, by the way, he was a man in life's quest. He left the grim old rugged's to the

Good-bye, Bob! you've made us laugh. Brightened the daily round. Humor's cup we've gladly quaffed. Life's joy you would expound. Your passing leaves a sorry gap. By thousands you'll be missed. Your friends are drawn across the map. Ah, more more to grieve your loss!

Well, the best of it, you would not want to sigh. You had your own, old friend, no Good-bye, old pal, goodbye. P. G. E.

On July 18th, 1921, R. C. Edwards was elected one of the five Calgary representatives on the Alberta Legislative Council. He was an independent candidate and his own money was almost keeping him all the time. He refused to pollinate. The policy of the day is absolutely bogus, because Edwards takes being financially honest.

He accepted the nomination of W. M. Johnston of The Morning Alberta, and for the first time in his career he accepted the nomination of the Calgary Eye Opener. He was a man of great energy and his papers were full of the most popular features in the paper and the citizens regarded him as the

In Memory

Robert Chambers Edwards

A gentleman and scholar whom to know
intimately was a privilege. He was a
man of sterling qualities, true to his friends
and possessed with the courage to stand by
his convictions.

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Per D. A. MacLeod

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- * They are redeemable at par on demand at the office of the Deputy Provincial Treasurer.
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HON. H. GREENFIELD, Provincial Treasurer. M. V. NEWSON, Deputy Provincial Treasurer.

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Even in those early days The Eye Opener was taking a very active part in the public life of Calgary. From High River Bob Edwards told the Calgary fair should have at least two days and tomorrow the fair should be open. In April, 1900, when the Calgary fair was in its heyday, he devoted two afternoons, instead of one or two evenings, to writing for the paper. After starting the fair, he was in the Calgary fair, he commented on conditions prevailing at the fair.

Up north all the talk is about the Edmonton fair and the \$10,000 prize list, 1,000 of which goes to the three days been racing.

All the north country is enthusiastic about it. The managers are men of the world and have what the public want. They'll get the crowd.

Chas. H. Forrester, ("Bob" Edwards' Captain).

"One day in February, 1900, I called on the editor in charge of a newspaper station on Eighth Avenue, Calgary, and proposed that, if he would furnish me with suitable ideas I would draw sporting cartoons, make him free of charge. The gallant editor regretted that he could not think of anything suitable, but sent me to Mr. H. C. Edwards. This led to 'Bob' giving me the work of making his cartoons from that time till his death. One could not help feeling that it was a privilege to know him and to work for him. His mind was stored with facts relating to the political history of Canada, past and present. He seemed to observe every little change in the political weather and his comments and forecasts showed extraordinary accuracy and wisdom. He was particularly glad to work for him for he paid a fair price and 'BOB' CALD.

He was very helpful to many besides myself in using his influence to obtain for them, what an honest, poor-man's dinner meat, viz., a steady job at the living wage.

His heart was big and warm. Once hearing that I was up and living alone, he came two miles and brought a friend so that I remember I might be taken where I could get proper nursing. It was of course he was unnecessarily alarmed, but I had needed a friend, he was right THERE!

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He was a "lover to evil-doers" and he saved the public from having his pocket picked for all that we shall ever realize.

I had the privilege in 1905 of watching the notorious Mr. Maurice read Bob's warning to the Calgary public regarding "Maurice & Maurice."

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Dean of Free-Lance Journalists and a Friendly Critic of the Silent Drama.

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PALACE
Theatrical and Motion Picture



Eye Opener Editor: "Now where in blue blazes shall we locate the little old paper this time!"
(This cartoon appeared in the first Post-Editorial dated August 14, 1909.)

he read he went white with passion and, though he could hardly find words to vent his disappointed rage against me, and the Eye Opener, I'll say he did his best.

The United States courts afterwards gave Mr. Maurice three years for lodging in a penitentiary for swindling. His wishes had been granted, Calgary would have quickly assumed the moderate smoking aspect of Boston and Gommers after the fire."

Commenting on the immigration policy of the government in 1903 he wrote:

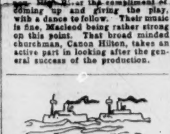
The best immigration agents are contented settlers who write to their friends about the conditions under which they live.

This was a theme frequently referred to by The Eye Opener in later years in connection with his views on immigration to Alberta was always sure of support in the paper.

Throughout his career, Bob was eager to give hearty support to those who were striving to make the world a happier place to live in. He had a victim's pen for those who tried the earth with discontented head and nervous demagogue. Nothing pleased him more than to see an ecclesiastic entering into the gale of the community.

On such occasions his literary comment was favorable. One early instance in connection with a lecture on the talent production is quoted:

Alas! and it will surely reap liberal patronage when a company of actors and giving the play, "The High River" was a success. The music in it was, Mackenzie being rather strong on this point. That broad-minded chairman, Canon Hilbert, takes an active part in looking after the general success of the production.



Feeling rain, the Canadian Free runs for the nearest post.

The High River Times: "General regret expressed in High River on Wednesday when it became known that R. C. Edwards, M.L.A. for Calgary and editor of the Eye Opener had died on Tuesday evening after an illness of several weeks. Mr. Edwards had been in failing health since April, when he suffered from an attack of influenza while attending the provincial legislature. Mr. Edwards, in the early days, was a resident of High River where he edited the Eye Opener, a journal that enjoyed a very large circulation throughout the Dominion. He was one of the outstanding figures in free lance journalism in Canada and will be much missed by his fellow journalists throughout Canada."

The Daily Province, Vancouver, after referring at length to the deceased editor's career, published the following:

"Mr. Edwards' first immersion in the publishing field in his own behalf was at Wetaskiwin, Alberta, and shortly afterwards he moved to High River, south of Calgary, the centre of one of the English-speaking ranchmen. Here the Eye Opener was born and first began to attract attention because of the funny stories his editor told about the ranchmen and their life."

"One of the best of these was the yarn about the younger son of a gentleman who had been sent to Canada for Edward's good, and given liberal sums of money to spend in a ranch. The money and the various sums that followed it, were, of course, all invested in the bar of the hotel at High River, the bar of the place coming out an acre of land or a head of stock. One day he received a telegram from Calgary saying his father would arrive on the next train to inspect the 'property.' Hastening to a train, he found a few hundred head of stock which were magnified into thousands by the simple expedient of saying that time after time, numbers during there a few miles while the unexpected father was on the way."

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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INSURANCE IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

Edmonton Beer

is
The Right
Beverage

To build up strength,
health and happiness

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R. J. LYDIATT,
Manager

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Present the World's
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Daddy Long Legs
with
EDDY ELLIOTT
in the Leading Role.
M 3339
11th Week

Complies with Government Regulations

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[illegible]

ALIENS
PALACE
KING OF THE HILL

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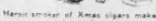
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